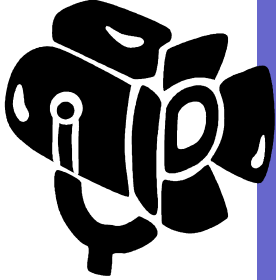


# Partners



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Check out this year's legislative agenda!

Go to:

[www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org)

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### SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSPORTATION!



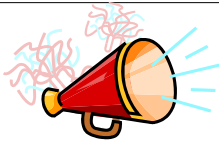
*Lack of intercity transportation, insufficient public transportation, or none at all, lack of sidewalks, limited or no door-to-door transportation and inaccessible streets, walkways and intersections.*

You've all heard it or said it, "Transportation is a major problem for Oklahomans." In 2002 the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) conducted a Transportation Survey. The findings of that survey are very enlightening. At the same time, the results are quite upsetting. 58.3% of survey respondents considered transportation to be a major or significant problem in their lives. 65.5% of respondents reported there are persons in their households who are dependent on public transportation or relatives and friends because they do not drive or own a car. Many of the respondents said they could not drive due to their disabilities.



The DRS is working with other state agencies and offices to tackle the transportation challenges Oklahomans face regularly through the United We-Ride initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to link those agencies providing transportation and to educate the public on available types of transportation. DRS is also trying to build a coalition to help with advocacy issues and to evaluate what unmet needs exist. One of the tasks of the OCCY state plan is to support this transportation initiative in response to Partnership Boards' concerns about transportation. OCCY will keep you posted on the status of the United We-Ride initiative. If you have ideas or questions, please contact the Office of Planning and Coordination.





## Three Cheers For Community Projects!!

**A**s many of you know, this year the Office of Planning and Coordination received a record number of Special Project Fund requests.

We are very excited that so many of our community partnership boards are actively involved in community initiatives! And now that award letters have been received, we thought it might be a good time to review Special Project Planning! Special Project Planning is a good idea, regardless if you only have a small “mini-grant” from OCCY, community donated funds, or your board is the recipient of a large grant.

The first step in planning a Special Project is to ensure the group has a good understanding of WHY the project is being conducted. Reviewing your community needs assessment, community statistic reports (Kids Count, OSU Ext. School Reports, etc.), key informant surveys, and identifying gaps in services are good ways for the partnership board to comprehend the needs of their community. It is important that some type of data exists that supports your local special project, and that the data driven need be documented.

After the partnership board members are familiar with the greatest needs of their community, the group can decide on WHAT the program will do for the community. What is the desired outcome of the special project implementation? In other words, are we doing projects because that is what the group has always done, or is the special project planning intentional and will it have the desired effect? For example, if your partnership board reviews the Kids Count Databook and discovers your county has a higher than state average rate of teen pregnancies, the group may want to implement projects or programs that have an outcome of reducing teen pregnancy. Next your partnership board should collaborate on a measurable goal amount or outcome and timeline, e.g. decreasing the teen pregnancy rate by 20% in a three year period.

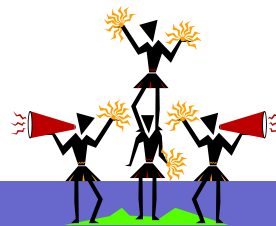
Once the group is aware of why a project needs to be done and what the desired outcome of the project should be, your group can then begin to research HOW to achieve the objective. The first step is to identify existing projects in the area of need. After an assessment of on-going programs, the group can then document best practices. Many groups have experts within their own membership! If after brainstorming and sharing resources the group need further research, an ad hoc “program research sub-committee” can be established to collect additional researched best practices and existing efforts.

Finally, after your partnership board has decided on special project(s), the group can move into the implementation phase. It is very important that there are built-in impact indicators in the implementation phase. Tracking the effect of your special project on the targeted issue or population is how you will know what works and where your successes are! Tracking data on your special project can be as simple as recording the number of participants at your free dental fair. Or you could go further by tracking how many referrals were made to dentists, how many participants had insurance, how many patients followed through with visits, and what treatment was received as a result of attending the free dental fair. Other ways to track the effect of a special project(s) are pre and post testing and re-evaluating statistics in the same issue area after the project implementation timeline.

Congratulations! You have just completed a crash course on special project(s) planning. Just remember, your are NOT in this alone; if you need any assistance with special project(s) planning, please call the Office of Planning and Coordination for reinforcement! After careful research, planning, collaboration and hard work... it's time to tackle the next issue!

article by Brandy Smith

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Brandy Smith, Planner  
Traci Guptill, Planner  
Laurie Akins, Administrative Assistant



### **Back To Basics Training**

This interactive mini workshop is tailored to meet the needs of individual community partnership boards. The focus of the training is coalition self-evaluation. Other topics covered are: review of OCCY, OCCY guidelines, the Community Partnership Board Manual, and helpful coalition tools.



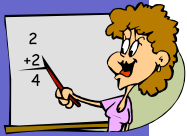
### **Conducting a Needs Assessment Training**

Although conducting a needs assessment seems like a daunting task, it helps to know what information is *already* available. The purpose of this training is to define data driven programs, research existing statistics, and increase awareness of various needs assessment types and tools.



### **Youth Empowerment Opportunities Consultation**

Free consultations! OCCY Planners offer consultations by appointment on getting youth involved and empowered. Youth Speak Outs, youth coalitions, Pro-Social Involvement, recreation centers, and youth driven projects are the topics included in this consultation package.



### **Grant Writing Workshop**

This training is based on the popular how-to booklet, "Thresholds for Success: Crossing the Threshold Grant," written by Kevin Rodgers, Jack Chapman, and Traci Guptill. If your coalition is interested in writing a grant, without a professional grant writer, this is the training for you! From understanding your funder to actual grant writing; it's all here!



### **Strategic Planning Retreat**

A strategic plan is a framework for coalition activities and projects. Strategic planning assistance can be provided in the form of a "planning to plan" consultation, developing a logic model, or an actual strategic planning facilitation. If your group would like to develop a strategic plan, it is a good idea to plan for a day long retreat.



### **Asset Building Workshop**

Search Institute created the 40 Developmental Assets in order to give people a positive language for addressing young people and their needs. Traci Guptill has been trained by Search Institute staff to deliver a variety of trainings and speeches on the 40 Assets. All trainings are interactive, provide participants with a basic framework of the Assets, and encourage participants to share the Asset Message with others. Trainings can last anywhere from 15 minutes to 6 hours. These workshops are appropriate for people of all ages, including middle and high school students. Trainings can be tailored to suit your group.

**To schedule one of these trainings contact Brandy Smith at 405-606-4907.**

# *A Funny Thing Happened at the Forum*

I attended the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy Fall Forum recently. I sat in on the Children's Mental Health workgroup. One of the things I like best about going to the forum is meeting new people and in turn learning from those people. I met this very lovely lady who changed the way I view our state. We were working in groups and as fate would have it, this lady was in my group. We had been given the task of discussing systemic issues surrounding mental and behavioral health for children. As the discussion unfolded, it became obvious that we all agreed that families in rural communities were underserved or not served at all. This is the part when the lovely lady speaks up to teach us all an important lesson. She said, "I work with inner-city youth and families. They face those same challenges; either they don't have transportation to get to services or services are not offered." My group and I blinked and stared in wonder; who ever would have thought rural and urban issues would be the same? Certainly not me! I had this idea that the city folks had access to anything they needed; they are after all in a city with numerous social services and agencies. My eyes were opened. When it comes to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Behavioral Health Services, there are many under served communities, from small town to big city. We may be a loosely-knit community, but we are a community nonetheless. People in rural and urban areas share the same convictions and care for our state's young people. Both want to see positive change in our state and we will all work for it. It is slow, methodical work. Working together, we make a huge impact on child advocacy issues.

**Paul Rogat Loeb said, "History shows that the proverbial rock can be rolled, if not to the top of the mountain, then at least to successive plateaus. History also shows that even seemingly miraculous advances are in fact the result of many people taking small steps together over a long period of time."**

article by Traci Guptill